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Napa County Pesticide Regulatory Program 2006/2007 Performance Evaluation Report

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October 10, 2007

Performance Evaluation of Napa County Agricultural Commissioner Pesticide Use Enforcement Program

This report provides a performance evaluation of Napa County Agricultural Commissioner's (CAC's) pesticide use enforcement (PUE) program for fiscal year (FY) 2006/2007. The assessment evaluates the performance of goals identified in the CAC's Enforcement Work Plan (EWP) as well as the program's adherence to Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) standards as described in the Pesticide Use Enforcement Standards Compendium.

I. Summary Report of Core Program Elements

A) Restricted Materials Permitting:

The restricted materials permitting program element was found to meet DPR standards and EWP goals.

B) Compliance Monitoring:

The compliance monitoring program element was found to meet DPR standards and EWP goals.

C) Enforcement Response:

The enforcement response program element was found to meet DPR standards and EWP goals.

Summary Statement:

Napa CAC's pesticide use program is currently effective

II. Assessment of Core Program Effectiveness and Work Plan Goals

A) Restricted Materials Permitting:

1) Permit Issuance

The Napa CAC permit issuance procedures and performance were evaluated through observation and interviews of relevant staff and found to conform to DPR standards and expectations. The biologists that issue permits all possess Pesticide Regulation and Investigation and Environmental Monitoring licenses. The county reviewed 520 Notice of Intents (NOIs) and issued 592 Operator Identification Numbers during FY 2006/2007. The DPR evaluation determined that permits are:

- Issued only to qualified applicants;
- Signed by authorized persons;
- Issued for time periods allowed by law; and that
- Permit amendments follow approved procedures.

2) Site Evaluation

The Napa CAC site evaluation procedures were evaluated through observation, record review, and interviews of relevant staff and found to conform to DPR

standards and expectations. The CAC issued 152 agricultural permits and six non-agricultural permits during FY 2006/2007. The permits:

- Contained the necessary information;
- Identified treatment areas and sensitive areas that could be adversely impacted by the permitted uses; and
- Identified mitigation measures and included conditions that addressed known hazards.

The CAC staff adequately evaluated permits and determined if the use of feasible alternatives was required. The program reviews all NOIs in a timely manner and adequately monitored agricultural and nonagricultural permits utilizing pre-application site evaluations and use monitoring inspections.

B) Compliance Monitoring:

1) Inspections

The Napa CAC permit inspection procedures and performance were evaluated through DPR oversight inspections and record review and found to conform to DPR standards and expectations. All biologists that perform inspections possess Pesticide Regulation and Investigation and Environmental Monitoring licenses. Inspections are performed according to the inspection strategy documented in the CAC's EWP. Inspections are performed according to DPR policies and procedures and inspection reports are complete and comprehensive. The CAC's staff is very accommodating when it comes to making themselves available for oversight inspections by the DPR Enforcement Branch Liaison (EBL). The inspections adequately provide the information necessary to successfully prosecute violations.

Inspections performed by the CAC were found to:

- Adequately address label, law and regulatory requirements;
- Include interviews of employers and employees as appropriate;
- Adequately document violations; and
- Include appropriate follow-up inspections and procedures.

2) Investigations

The Napa CAC's investigation procedures and performance were evaluated through observation, record review, and interviews of relevant staff and found to conform to DPR standards and expectations. The CAC investigates all complaints and complete their reports in a timely manner. The CAC refers and/or notifies DPR and other agencies as required.

Investigations are thorough and complete and submitted on approved forms and in the approved format. The investigations document violations and the CAC collects evidence according to DPR standards. The investigations adequately provide the information necessary to successfully prosecute violations.

C) Enforcement Response:

The Napa CAC's enforcement response was evaluated through observation, record review, and interviews of relevant staff and found to conform to DPR standards and expectations. Napa County was a pioneer in the development of a model for the Decision Report form that may be used by DPR. The CAC's enforcement program was found to:

- Initiate the appropriate action when violations are identified;
- Sufficiently support compliance, enforcement and public protection actions;
- Ensure that due process requirements are met when taking an enforcement or permit action or when initiating a private applicator certification or registration refusal/revocation.

The CAC levies fines in the appropriate category, adheres to statutory time frames and follows DPR policies when imposing civil penalties on employees.

III. Recommended Corrective Actions

No corrective actions are currently needed.

IV. Non-Core and Desirable Activities

Outreach and Training

The Napa CAC's office performs bilingual (English/Spanish) training to industry employees on pesticide laws and regulations and worker safety as well as outreach to agricultural workers through local health fairs. The CAC also provides outreach information and materials on compliance with pesticide laws and regulations, industry pest control information, integrated pest management and worker safety to growers, handlers and restricted material permittees with the annual "Ag Rag" newsletter.